

**BURIEN BUSINESS AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP (BEDP)  
STUDY SESSION**

**Date:** July 10, 2009

**Time:** 7-8:30 a.m.

**Members Present:** Alice Madsen, Bob Ewing, Kevin Fitz, Dave Elliott , Renée Klein, Michael Goldsmith, Mark Minium, Doug Moreland, Nancy Hinthorne, Rick Cosgrave, Judy Covert, Jane Voget

**Excused Absentees:** Geri Fain, Jim Hughes

**Staff:** Mike Martin, City Manager; Dick Loman, Economic Development Manager; Janet Stallman, Department Assistant

**Guests:** Councilmembers Gordon Shaw and Kathy Keene

**Call to Order:** Meeting opened at 7:00 a.m. by Michael Goldsmith, Chair

The Minutes of the June 12, 2009 meeting were approved as written.

**Chair's Report**

Michael spoke briefly about Thomas Sieverts' visit. He mentioned the Southwest King County Chamber Golf Tournament on July 30<sup>th</sup> at Rainier Golf Club.

**City Manager Report – Mike Martin**

Mike Martin gave a brief overview of current business:

- The City is having active discussions with the Fire Department to locate the new Fire Station.
- Burien received \$5.5 million in stimulus funding for the Transit Oriented Development (TOD); we expect to break ground in January. It will consist of 503 parking stalls; 2<sup>nd</sup> phase will be low-income housing for seniors & teachers.
- We have made real progress in the NERA. The SEPA environmental document will soon be done.
- The full directional interchange process is coming along.
- City Hall is working well. We are seeing 1,000 people a week that weren't here before due to Library traffic.
- The Community Center is coming along very nicely. Tenant Improvements should begin in the next 4 or 5 months. We're pursuing grants for HVAC systems.
- Environmental Science Center is under construction at Seahurst Park. The 1<sup>st</sup> floor is scheduled to be complete in October.
- We have a low-watt radio station, AM 540. It is mainly for communicating with our residents during emergencies. Renée Klein & Alice Madsen offered to put information in their employee newsletters regarding listening to AM 540.

Mark Minium commented that after the Grand Opening event he has heard several remarks from people about the Town Square Condos and that 90% of the people think the prices are out of line. He wonders what the cost is to have them empty. Mike responded that the City cannot set the prices for the Condos.

### **Economic Manager Report – Dick Loman**

The TOD & Fire Station represent about \$50 million that will be invested in the downtown core in Burien. The Wellness Cluster (now referred to as “Burien Wellness”) will be holding a Wellness Fair in September. It will be the first joint-promotion of the group. Most medical providers are expanding in Burien.

### **Discover Burien Report – Doug Moreland**

Doug Moreland reported on Discover Burien. Since our last meeting, DB had a successful Father’s Day car show in the downtown. The Town Square Grand Opening here was a big success. There will be a new executive director that will take over the middle of this month. We hope to be able to introduce our new Executive Director at the next meeting. Oktoberfest will be happening at the end of September.

### **Mark Kearns, Burien Press**

Michael Goldsmith introduced Mark Kearns of the Burien Press and invited him to explain the experience he had in getting his building permit for the new store. Mark was particularly frustrated by the fact that there wasn’t a handout or list of items of what needed to happen before a permit would be issued. He had received some general information, and believed that the process might take up to six weeks, but it ended up taking 12, and he didn’t find it efficient. Mark felt that information was provided on a “here’s the next thing” basis, rather than the whole picture up front. Mark’s impression is that the system is not business-friendly.

Judy Coovert told of a frustrating experience getting a permit to change out the racking system in her shop. She said that our staff is very nice, but they don’t seem to understand that for businesses time is money; they don’t seem to understand that there is a sense of urgency involved.

The idea of providing help in navigating the process was brought up again. BEDP mentioned that they have discussed this before, but haven’t taken any action. Because of the competition to lure businesses to cities, BEDP members felt it was important not to be just as good as other cities, but to be better in this area.

Mike Martin responded that he would look into what happened and that if we have a problem, we will fix it.

### **Marketing Burien to Businesses**

Judy Coovert proposed that a subcommittee be formed to market Burien to new and existing businesses. She felt it could identify what is business-friendly about Burien and aggressively market those attributes to businesses potentially looking to relocate. She asked what we are currently doing to attract businesses. She wondered who is marketing Burien to businesses. She proposed finding out what services or businesses we lack that we’d like to have in Burien? What can be done short and long-term to attract them? Renée Klein suggested the subcommittee do a gap analysis to see what’s already in place and what might be needed. Volunteers to participate included: Dave Elliott, Judy Coovert, Renée Klein, Dick Loman and Bob Ewing.

### Round The Table

Renée Klein: ER expansion: tower crane's going away; work moving inside. State budget cuts for hospitals are impacting Highline about \$200,000/month. Employee pay increases (SEIU) are also costing an additional \$70,000/month. Decisions will be need to be made to deal with these cost impacts. Highline Medical Center Foundation is having a Golf Tournament at Washington National – everyone invited.

Nancy Hinthorne mentioned that the Chamber's Membership Luncheon is today and that the Mayors from SeaTac, Burien & Tukwila would be there.

Kathy Keene mentioned that the Department of Commerce is going to be at SeaTac City Hall next Tuesday and they are having a session for businesses with fewer than 200 employees that people are welcome to attend.

Mark Minium announced that the Olde Burien Block Party will be this Saturday, noon to 10:00PM.